



The Copie of the Kings Maiesties Letters vnder his Signet, directed to the Right Honorable his Maiesties Iudges of Assize: the right Worshipfull his Maiesties High Sheriffs, Maiors, and Iustices of Peace: And to all Bayliffes, chiefe Constables, and all other his Maiesties Officers and louing Subiects aswell Spirituall as Temporall, within his Highnes seuerall Countiees, Corporations, and priuiledged places within his Maiesties Realme of England.

Whereas We haue bene already pleased at the humble suit of the Maior & Cittizens of our City of *Lincolne*, to grant vnto them licence, aswell by our Letters Patents vnder our great Seale of *England*, as by our speciall Letters vnder our Signe Manuall, to leuie moneys by way of Collections, in sundry our Shires, for the scowring & making navigable of an ancient water-courte called *Fosse Dyke*, neere vnto our said City, whereby trade & comerce may be drawne to our said poore decayed City to the enriching thereof, and of all the parts therunto adioynning. Whereupon some of those Countiees, and particular persons vnto whom we adressed our Letters, haue (to our great contentment) freely and liberally contributed therunto. Forasmuch as the worke is now well advanced, and that the moneys already collected (though carefully managed and employed to the best advantage) will nothing neere counteruaile the charge thereof, as we are informed by our right trusty & right wel-beloued Cosen the Earle of *Rutland*, and diuers other personages of qualite of those parts. Wee haue euer bene pleased to vouchsafe our Princely furtherance to publike workes, and more especially to this, to which we gaue beginning, and therefore cannot now but cherish the Progresse, & much tender the perfection thereof, haue thought good to direct these our speciall Letters to you & every of you respectively, requiring you that at the next Assizes to be held within your seuerall Circuits in our seuerall Countiees, you our Iustices of Assize doe deale effectually with the High Sheriffs & Iustices of the Peace in each our said Countiees, not only themselves to contribute liberally to so worthy a worke, but by their examples & best endeavours to excite the Gentry & all other louing Subiects throughout all Countiees, Corporations, priuiledged & other places within our said seuerall Countiees, freely to extend their bounty to the finishing of the same. And further our pleasure is, because we would haue you put a difference betwene these our Letters Patents which this bearer will shew you, and such Briefes as are ordinarily granted for losse by fire & other casualties, that you our High Sheriffs and Iustices of the Peace of the said seuerall Countiees, doe not only take such course as in your discretions you shall thinke fit for the raising of these moneys to some proportion answerable to our expectation, & the greatnes of the worke, but also give order to all the Constables, Headboroughs, & other our inferior Officers & Ministers in your Precincts, for the speedy leuying of the said contributions to the best ease & benefit of the said Cittizens; And likewise that the money so leuyed, be deliuered to *Robert Morecroft* Alderman of our City of *Lincolne*, or his Deputy or Deputies, of whom we expect particular accompt of the same. And lastly, we expect your and euerie of your best care & diligence in this behalf, the successe wherof we much affect, and will not faile to retaine a gracious remembrance of what furtherance soeuer we shall vnderstand you haue giuen it.

JAMES, By the Grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all and singular Archbishops, Bishops, Sherifes, Bayliffes, Constables, Churchwardens, & Headboroughs: And to all Officers of Countiees, Boroughs, and Townes corporate: And to all other our Officers, Ministers, & Subiects whatsoever they be, aswell within Liberties as without, to whom these presents shall come, greeting.

Whereas We haue heretofore bene truly certified aswell by diuers Petitions exhibited vnto vs by our true & Loyall Subiects the Maior & Cittizens of our poore decayed City of *Lincolne*, as also by a Certificate from our right trusty & wel beloued Cosen Francis Carle of *Rutland*, and others others Knights Barons, Bishops, & Clergy, Iustices of the Peace within our Countie of *Lincolne*: That it was a thing most needfull, convenient & commodious, for to open, scowre & cleanse the old Dyame called *Fosse*, first made by our Noble Progenitor *Henry the first*, for the bringing of traffike & Marchandise to our said City the which now is stopped up & not navigable for ships of any burthen, whereby our said City is much impoverished, decayed, and become so poore for want of trading there againe, as to selle the same be forthwith restored and continued, that ancient City in short time is like to be againe flourished & enriched. Upon consideration wherof, we did heretofore in our Princely care for the good of our said City and furtherance of this worthy & commendable action, direct to the Lords of our Privy Councill to send their Letters to the Nobility & Gentry of our said Countie of *Lincolne*, for the collecting & gathering of such sums of money within the said Countie as then was thought fit, towards the opening & scowring of the said Dyame, but finding the charge of the worke to be far greater then could be raised in that manner, the same being estimated by men experienced in those affaires, to amount to the Sum of *Three Thousand Pounds*, We then sent our own Letters vnder our Privy Signet, to the Nobility & Gentry within our Countiees of *York*, & *Nottingham*, for like contribution to be made on that behalf: After all which the said City being in way of our Progresse towards Scotland, our selfe was an Eye witness of the ruines & decayes thereof, and being then more fully informed & assured of the vndoubted benefit which by this good worke was likely to becom. aswell to the City & Countie as vnto adioynning, as also to the publique good of the Common wealth, We were then graciously pleased upon further Petition made vnto vs to grant our Letters Patents vnder our great Seale of *England*, dated the Twelfth day of July in the fiftieth yere of our Reigne of *England*, &c. for a Collection to be made within Eight Countiees of this our Realme, with speciall request & desire to all Archbishops, Bishops, Barons, Knights, and Gentlemen, not only themselves to be bounden to a liberal contribution, but also to the uttermost of their power to move all other dwelling Subiects according to their ability to doe the like. And Wee forasmuch as we haue bene lately certified aswell by a Certificate from our foresaid right trusty and wel-beloued Cosen Francis Carle of *Rutland*, as also by another Certificate from diuers Iustices of Peace nere vnto our foresaid City of *Lincolne*, that the Cittizens there haue of themselves to the uttermost of their ability, with the helpe of the foresaid contributions (wherewith Wee were much contented) disbursed about this good worke the Sum of *One Thousand Marks*, which hath well advanced the same and brought it into a good forwardnes, yet Wee are informed that vntill some further course be forthwith taken for present supply of moneys to proceed therein, the foresaid worke now standeth at a stay & must shortly perish, and the charge & cost already bestowed be utterly lost, notwithstanding our great care & desire we haue had from the beginning of the prosperitie of this business, to which we gaue beginning, and cannot now but much cherish & tender the progresse & perfection thereof. And therefore Wee haue thought good not only to renew our foresaid Letters Patents for a generall Collection to be made throughout our Realme of *England*, where no former Collection hath bene, but also to direct our Letters Signe Manuall to all our Iudges of Assize, requiring them & every of them within their seuerall Circuits, aswell to deale effectually with our high Sheriffs & Iustices of Peace not only themselves to contribute liberally herein, but by their examples & best endeavours to excite the Gentry, and all other our louing Subiects within any City, Towne corporate, priuiledged or other place whatsoever throughout our Realme of *England*, to extend their liberal contribution in like maner towards the finishing of this good worke. And also to take further order that Constables, Headboroughs & other inferior Officers & Ministers within their precincts or Parishes, shall make speedy Collection of euery Inhabitant or other sufficient person within their Parishes, and to deliuer the Sum & Sums of money so collected, vnto our true & faithfull Subiect *Robert Morecroft* Alderman of our said City of *Lincolne*, or to his Deputy or Deputies the bearer or bearers hereof, of whom we expect a particular Accompt. And Wee will & command all Parsons, Vicars, & Curats, for the better stirring up of a charitable deuotion, do liberally to publish & declare the Tenor of these our Letters Patents, or Briefe thereof, vnto our said Subiects, exhorting & perswading them to extend their liberal contributions in so good and charitable a worke. And lastly Wee will you & every of you that are appointed Collectors herein, that there be a sufficient booke kept by you, wherein you shall set downe euery particular Sum & Sums by you collected of any Nobleman, Knight, or man of worth & quality, or in any Church or ciuill society that giue & contribute hereunto, whereby we may be certified how much our said Subiects shall regard our pleasure & request in this behalfe. Any Statute, Law, Ordinance, or promise heretofore made to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding. In witness whereof, we haue caused these our Letters to be made Patents for the space of One whole yere next after the date hereof to endure. Witness our selfe at *Wellminster*, the Thirtieth day of February, in the Sixtieth yere of our Reigne of *England*, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the Two & fiftieth.

Steward

God saue the King

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